

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the present application. The Office Action presents the following points in connection with the following claims: 1) claims 1-8 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Antonenko et al. (US 5,866,342); and 2) claims 9-12 and 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Antonenko et al. in view of Carlson et al. (US 2003/0116497).

Claims 1, 7, 9 and 13 are currently amended. Claims 10-12 are cancelled, and new claims 39-45 are added. Claims 17-38 were previously cancelled.

Claims 1, 7 and 13 have been amended to delete the phrase “in particular crystallisation experiments” in case the inclusion of this phrase in these claims may render them indefinite. This feature is presented in new claim 39 that is dependent upon claim 1. This feature is added to claim 9 to avoid a lack of antecedent basis in claim 9 if it were not so amended. With respect to claim 7, claim 7 has also been rewritten more conventionally in the form of a method claim comprising steps in order to make the claim clear.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested in view of the amendments presented herein and the following remarks.

1. Claims Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Independent claims 1 and 7 stand rejected as anticipated by Antonenko et al. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 7 are not anticipated by Antonenko et al. For a rejection under 102(b) to be proper, the cited reference must disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claim. *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of*

California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). As demonstrated below, Antonenko et al. does not disclose each and every feature of claim 1 or of claim 7 and therefore fails to anticipate these claims.

More particularly, with respect to claim 1, Antonenko et al fail to disclose at least the following features recited therein: 1) “the liners are each provided with at the first face of the main body with at least one outwardly directed support projection”; 2) “the bores in the main body are each provided with a corresponding recess for receiving the support projection”; 3) “first closure means for closing the openings of the liners at the first face of the main body, which first closure means comprise one or more elastic first sealing members and a first cover plate, so that said first sealing members are interpositioned between the ends of the liners and the first cover plate;” and 4) “second closure means are provided for closing the openings of the liners at the second face of the main body, said second closure means comprising one or more second elastic sealing members and a second cover plate which is fastenable to the main body, so that said second sealing members are interpositioned between the ends of the tubular liners and the second cover plate”.

Antonenko et al. fails to disclose that “the liners each are provided at the first face of the main body with at least one outwardly directed support projection”, as recited in claim 1. The Office Action, at page 2, cites to column 5, lines 20-25 of Antonenko et al. as supporting such a disclosure. Applicant respectfully submits that such citation fails to support or show the Antonenko et al. teaches liners provided at the first face of the main body with at least one outwardly directed support projection. Support for this recitation in claim 1 is found, for example, as element 9 of Fig. 1 of Applicant’s specification and

page 4, lines 3-6 of Applicant's Substitute Specification. No such outwardly directed support projection for a liner is taught anywhere in Antonenko et al. To the contrary, referring, for example, to Fig. 4A of Antonenko et al., the liner 62 is shown having a constant outer diameter and the bore 30 is shown as having a corresponding constant inner diameter.

Secondly, claim 1 recites that "the bores in the main body are each provided with a corresponding recess for receiving the support projection." Again, Antonenko et al. fails to disclose any such feature. Upper support plate 74 of Fig. 4A of Antonenko et al. is illustrated as including no such recess for receiving an outwardly directed support projection of a liner. The Office Action cites generally to Fig. 4 as disclosing that the bores in the main body are each provided with a corresponding recess for receiving the support projection, at page 2 of the Office Action. Such a generalized citation provides improper support for such an argument. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner identify where in Fig. 4 such a recess, as recited in Applicant's claim 1, is illustrated, particularly in view of the fact that Fig. 4A fails to disclose any such recess.

Third, Antonenko et al. fail to disclose the feature recited in claim 1 of "first closure means for closing the openings of the liners at the first face of the main body, which first closure means provides one or more elastic first sealing members and a first cover plate, so that the first sealing members are interpositioned between the ends of the liners and the first cover plate." The Office Action, at the bottom of page 2, cites to element 60 of Antonenko et al. and Fig. 4A as support for the assertion that this feature is taught or disclosed by Antonenko et al. Applicant respectfully submits that neither element 60 nor Fig. 4A properly support such an allegation. Element 60 is not a sealing

member but is described as a filter (see, for example, column 5, lines 21-22). Filters 60 do not constitute a sealing member, nor are they interposed between the ends of the liners and the first (top) cover plate. Instead the filters are interposed between the end of the liners and the inlet and/or outlet. The same applies to the o-ring 58 of Fig. 4 which also is not interposed between the end of the liner and the first cover plate, but instead interposed between the end of the liner and the inlets and/or outlets.

Fourth, claim 1 also recites “second closure means are provided for closing the openings of the liners at the second face of the main body, said second closure means comprising one or more second elastic sealing members and a second cover plate which is fastenable to the main body, so that said second sealing members are interposed between the ends of the tubular liners and the second cover plate.” Just as Antonenko et al. fail to disclose the above-referenced first closure means, it also fails to disclose such second closure means.

Antonenko et al. relates to a different kind of method than that recited in claim 7. First, Antonenko et al. teach a method of synthesizing compounds on a solid support, while the method recited in claim 7 is to performing chemical experiments. Second, Antonenko et al. fail to disclose a filtration device as recited in claim 7 or the use of such filtration device as recited in claim 7. The Office Action, at page 5, makes reference to a filtration device, but fails to provide any specific citation in Antonenko et al. where such “a filtration device having channels with inlets corresponding to the bores of the main body of the experimentation assembly and a filter in each channel” is disclosed. Support for such recitation in claim 7 is found, for example, in Fig. 3 of Applicant’s specification and at page 4, lines 20-22 of Applicant’s Substitute Specification. Such filtration device

is unrelated to the filter 21 illustrated in Fig. 2, and further is separate and/or in addition to filter 21 of Fig. 2. Antonenko et al. fail to provide any disclosure whatsoever of such a filtration device, as recited in claim 7. Should the Examiner disagree, the Examiner is requested to identify where Antonenko et al. teach or disclose “a filtration device having channels with inlets corresponding to the bores in the main body of the experimentation assembly and a filter in each channel” which is a feature in addition to a main body, a top cover plate of a main body, and multiple bores extending through the main body, as recited in claim 7.

Furthermore, Antonenko et al. fail to disclose the manner in which the filtration device recited in claim 7 cooperates with said main body assembly. The filtration devices 60 disclosed in Antonenko et al. operate in a totally different manner from the manner in which the filtration device recited in claim 7 is described to operate.

2. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 9-12 and 14-16 stand rejected as being obvious in view of the combination of Antonenko et al. and Carlson et al. Claims 10-12 are cancelled herein, leaving claims 9 and 14-16, which are dependent claims depending upon either claim 1 or claim 7.

Carlson et al. fails to disclose the features identified above in regards to claims 1 and 7 as lacking in Antonenko et al. Accordingly, the combination of Antonenko et al. and Carlson et al. cannot render claims 9 and 14-16 obvious since such a combination would fail to disclose each and every feature recited in independent base claims 1 and 7.

3. New Claims 39-43

New claim 39 is added which is an independent claim patterned after claim 1, but adding a recitation to a filtration device similar to that recited in claim 7, while removing the feature that “the liners are provided at the first face of the main body with at least one outwardly directed support projection, and the bores in the main body are each provided with a corresponding recess for receiving the support projection”, which is provided instead in dependent claim 40. New claims 41-43 are added which are dependent claims depending upon claim 7.

New claim 39 is believed to be allowable for the reasons described above in regards to claim 7. New claims 40-43 are believed allowable as being dependent upon claim 39.

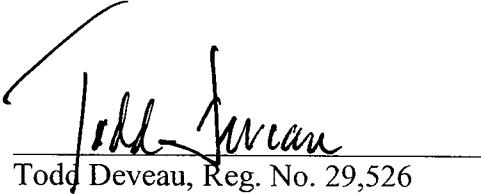
CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing remarks set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance and as such, favorable allowance of the present application is hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully Submitted,

**THOMAS, KAYDEN, HORSTEMEYER
& RISLEY, L.L.P.**

By:



Todd Deveau, Reg. No. 29,526

600 Galleria Parkway, Suite 1500
Atlanta, Georgia 30339
(770) 933-9500